



NOAA Teacher at Sea
Nicole Macias
Onboard NOAA Ship *Oscar Elton Sette*
May 31 – June 28, 2009

NOAA Teacher at Sea: Nicole Macias

NOAA Ship *Oscar Elton Sette*

Mission: Lobster Survey

Geographical area of cruise: North Western Hawaiian Islands

Date: Monday, June 1, 2009

Weather Data from the Bridge

Location: 22° 35.7' N, 162° 32.4' W

Wind Speed: 5 kts.

Swell waves: 2-4 ft.

Water Temperature: 26.7°C

Air Temperature: 26°C

Science and Technology Log

Since the ship is still in transit to our first location the science team did not have much to do today. All we did was set the tables up in the “pit”. This is the section of the boat where the traps, or “pods”, are pulled up out of the water. Once they are pulled out of the water they



Here I am throwing the message in the bottle over the stern of the boat.

are cracked open and everything is placed in a corresponding bucket to be taken to the wet lab to be measured and recorded. Everything in pod 1 would be placed in bucket one and so on. The only organism that does not go into the buckets are eels.

My job today was to bolt the tables in the pit together. They needed to be bolted together in case we hit rough seas. While half of us were working on the tables the other half was inflating buoys that will be used to mark the beginning and end of a set of traps.

I also was able to release a message in a bottle that



This is "the pit" where the lobster traps are pulled into the ship. My job setting up was to bolt the legs together.

another teacher had sent to me before my trip asking if I would release it for him. The man, Jay Little, has had over 225 message bottles released all over the world. His goal is to raise awareness for the global efforts needed to preserve the integrity of oceans and inspire people to take action. The message in the bottle explains his goal and also asks that whoever finds the bottle to send him back artifacts from the location it ended up in. He uses these artifacts to make sculptures that reflect the contributions of people from around the world. Out of the 225 bottles released to date 21 have been found. The 19th bottle found had an incredible journey having circumnavigated the world in 23,000 miles. The latest discovery was in Matrouh City on the Mediterranean coast of Northern Egypt in 2007. Hopefully our bottle number 285 will land somewhere new and deliver an important message.

Personal Log

One of the perks of being out to sea are the incredible sunrises and sunsets that happen every day and the wild life that comes with it. In the morning a huge pod of either Pacific white-sided dolphins or Dusky dolphins, passed by the ship. They are very similar and some scientists believe that they might be the same species. In the evening, while on top of the bridge to watch the sunset, two red-footed booby birds decided to perch on the weather vane to watch too.



A beautiful sunset on the Pacific



These are two Red Footed Booby Birds that decided to watch the sunset on the ship's Wind Vane.

They are the smallest of all the booby species and nest on land, but feed at sea. They are strong flyers and can travel up to 93 miles at a time and can dive up to 98 ft. to pursue prey.

The food is really good. Last night the cook made chocolate cake with a pecan and coconut frosting. It was very delicious. It is a good thing the boat has an exercise room so I can burn off the calories from three full meals a day. They also have a freezer that is stocked with ice cream and available 24 hours a day.

“Did You Know?”

Prior to the Revolutionary War, dockworkers in Boston went on strike

protesting that they had to eat lobster more than 3 times a week!

“Animals Seen Today”

The Red Footed Booby (*Sula sula*)

Pacific White-sided Dolphin: (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*)